THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI): (a) to (d) Data in respect of reluctance of witnessess to testify on account of intimidation though highlighted off and on, is not maintained. The Law Commission of India in its 198th Report on 'Witness Identity Protection and Witness Protection Programme' has suggested comprehensive review of witness protection. Since, Criminal Law and Criminal Procedure are on the Concurrent List of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India this requires consultation with State Governments and Union Territory Administrations. The Report has been referred to all the State Government and Union Territories Administrator for their comments/views. No time frame can be fixed in this regard.

Pending cases of pension to freedom fighters

2075. SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of pending cases for sanction of pension to the freedom fighters;

(b) the proposals to sanction these pensions;

(c) since many people have died and only a few are at the end of their lives, whether Government is taking any steps to speed up the process; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIK RAO GAVIT): (a) to (d) Receipt and disposal of applications for grant of freedom Fighters' pension is a continuing process. No record of applications, which are received directly from the applicants or without verification reports of the State Governments, is maintained. However, 256 applications, which have been received through the State Governments with their verification reports, were under process as on 29th February, 2008. In addition, 355 cases pertaining to Goa Liberation Movement (Phase-II) were also under process as on 29th February, 2008. Effects are made to dispose off such cases expeditiously.

Compulsory hoisting of national flag in educational institutes

†2076. SHRI AJAY MAROO: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering to enact any law which would bind all educational institutes of the country to hoist National Flag on Independence day and Republic day;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, whether Government intends to bring such proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIK RAO GAVIT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No such proposal is under consideration of the Government at present.

Sanctioned strength of state police forces

†2077. SHRI AJAY MAROO: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the sanctioned strength of State Police forces in various States;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.